## This Page Is Inserted by IFW Operations and is not a part of the Official Record

## **BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES**

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images may include (but are not limited to):

- BLACK BORDERS
- TEXT CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES
- FADED TEXT
- ILLEGIBLE TEXT
- SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES
- COLORED PHOTOS
- BLACK OR VERY BLACK AND WHITE DARK PHOTOS
- GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS

## IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

As rescanning documents will not correct images, please do not report the images to the Problem Image Mailbox.

## I CLAIM:

- 1. An apparatus for carrying loads on inclined surfaces, comprising:
- a support surface adapted to fixedly support a load;

an endless track connected to the support surface and adapted to propel the apparatus on an inclined surface;

a power source for actuating the endless track;

an anti-roll device for increasing a length of the apparatus beyond the endless track in a direction of movement of the apparatus on the inclined surface to prevent an overturning of the apparatus when transporting loads.

- 2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the anti-roll device is at least one arm projecting rearwardly from the apparatus in a projecting position thereof.
- 3. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the at least one arm is displaceable from a retracted position, wherein the at least one arm is retracted so as not to project from a rear end of the apparatus, and the projecting position.
  - 4. The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein an actuation of a displacement of the at least one arm from the retracted position to the projecting position is automated as a function of an inclination of the apparatus.
  - 5. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a brake for blocking the endless track so as to prevent an unwanted displacement of the apparatus on an inclined surface.
  - 6. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a roller system with rollers; selectively

deployable for displacing the apparatus without the endless track on given surfaces.

- 7. The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the roller system has an actuated mechanism connected to the power source for deploying the rollers.
- 8. The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the roller system has four rollers, with one roller positioned adjacent to each corner of the apparatus.
- 9. The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the rollers each have a swivel mechanism.
- 10. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the support surface is pivotally displaceable with respect to a remainder of the apparatus so as to be selectively oriented for carrying a load on an inclined surface.
- 11. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the support surface is displaceable with respect to a height dimension of the apparatus, for facilitating the reception and discharge of a load thereon from or onto an elevated surface.
- 12. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a cylindrical roller mounted to the apparatus adjacent to the support surface, for facilitating the positioning of a load onto the support surface.
- 13. An apparatus for carrying loads on inclined surfaces, comprising:
- a support surface adapted to fixedly support a load;

an endless track connected to the support surface and adapted to propel the apparatus on an inclined surface;

- a power source for actuating the endless track; and
- a cylindrical roller mounted to the apparatus adjacent to the support surface, for facilitating the positioning of a load onto the support surface.
- 14. The apparatus according to claim 13, further comprising a brake for blocking the endless track so as to prevent an unwanted displacement of the apparatus on an inclined surface.
- 15. The apparatus according to claim 13, further comprising a roller system with rollers selectively deployable for displacing the apparatus without the endless track on given surfaces.
- The apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the a portion of the endless track is exposed beyond the support surface and adjacent to the cylindrical roller, whereby a load is conveyed by a drive of the endless track with a conveying of the cylindrical roller when the rollers are deployed.
- 17. The apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the roller system has four rollers, with one roller positioned adjacent to each corner of the apparatus.
- 18. The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the rollers each have a swivel mechanism.
- 19. The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the support surface is pivotally displaceable with respect to a remainder of the apparatus so as to be selectively oriented for carrying a load on an inclined surface.
- 20. The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the support surface is displaceable with respect to a height

dimension of the apparatus, for facilitating the reception and discharge of a load thereon from or onto an elevated surface.